THE MYSTERY OF Mony-catching, OR THE CHARACTER OF AN Importunate Dunn:

WITH

The most approved means, for a persecuted Debtor, to avoid or pacify him.

With Allowance.

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THE CHARACTER OF

An *Importunate-Dunn*, &c.

AN *Importunate-Dunn*, is the Quinteſſence of Vexation; a *ſingle* Plague, worſe than all *Egypts Tenn*; A kind of *ſubſtantial Ghoſt*, perpetually *Haunting* a Man, and *ſucking* him as eagerly as an *Hobgoblin* does a *Witch*; an *Horſe-leech* that always Cries---*Give*, *Give*; Or rather a *Cuckow* that has never but one Note---*Pay*, *Pay*, *Mony*, *Mony*, *Mony*: A *troubleſome Devil* not to be *laid* with Holy water, and only *exorcis'd* by *Silver-Croſſes*; An *Evil Spirit* whom no *Muſique* but the ſweet *Gingling* of Coin can Charm.

Should we enquire his Pedigree, he ſeems one of *Nimrods* Baſtards, for he is a *Tyrant* by Nature, and a *mighty Hunter* by Profeſſion. A *Blood hound* of a no-

table *Quick-ſent* to diſcover his Game, and a *Deep Mouth* to purſue it; He takes upon him a Prerogative to *Gett*, where even *Kings themſelves muſt loſe their Rights*; Nay, preſumes to Ape *Creation*, by attempting to ſqueeze *ſomething* out of *nothing*, and raiſe a *world of Caſh*, from the barren womb of mear *Vacuities*.

He would make an excellent *States man*, for he has the beſt *Intelligence* in the World, and will find out a lurking Acquaintance in a *City-Croud*, or *Country-Corner*, ſooner than a purblind *Aſtrologer*, or a limping *Hue and Cry*; Yet nothing *Lights* him to you ſooner, or more *exaſperates* him againſt you, than a *New Suit*, a good *Dinner*, or a Merry *Glaſs*, for he holds it for a Maxime, That whoever *owes* him any thing, *ought* to be in *Arrear* likewiſe both to *Back* and *Belly*; If the Debtor live ſo *Remote*, that he cannot conveniently wait on him every other day, he makes him pay *Intereſt* (even to Extortion) at the *Poſt-Office*; for he is ſure of more *Letters*, than a *handſome Girl* of ſixteen that has a great Fortune at her own Diſpoſe; his ſtile in theſe *Familiar Epiſtles* is extreamly *Civil* in the Front, but cloſe and preſſing in the Rear--- *He would rather loſe his* ſmall Concern, *than put you to the leaſt* Inconvenience---*But muſt* needs *have his Mony* next Return, *or elſe ſhall be forc'd to* turn over *the Debt, or take his* Courſe; *Yet he attributes your Non-payment to your* unmindfulneſs, *and deſires you not to take this one more* Item *unkindly*; *He talks much in the Language of* Bacon's *Brazen-Head*, Time's paſt; *And* (*as if you were a ſecond* Joſhuah) *blames you for not* keeping the day; *He pretends extraordinary kindneſs for you, but hates*

hates all Protections *ſo much, That he dares not ſay at the end of his Letter,* He commits you to that of Heaven, *but always hoping to hear from you ſpeedily, and* with effect, *reſts, your humble Servant.* 115

At this rate (as the *Weapon-ſalve* heals) he wounds at a *diſtance*; But if you are *Come-at able* (as he calls it) he will Rack the very Soul of you, for he attends you as duly as your ſhadow, and proves as conſtant a Tormentor, as a *Guilty Conſcience* to a Murderer, you can neither eat, nor drink, nor ſleep, nor walk in *quiet* for him; Indeed the *Tenter-hooks* he puts a Man upon, are enough to *ſtretch* the tendereſt Conſcience, and *warp* the beſt Nature in the world, for when he will not be ſatisfied with *Truth*, you are forc'd to tell him what *is not ſo*, to get rid of him; Afterwards by unceſſant Importunities, he provokes you to *ſwear* at him, and at laſt by degrees, hardens you into a Reſolution, *never to pay him*, Thus we may call him the *Devils* Uſher, that tempts people from *Lying* to *ſwearing*, from that to *diſhoneſty*, and ſo improves them from *Forme to Forme*, in the *School* of Wickedneſs till they are fitted for the *Academy* of Hell.

Etymologiſts think he is called a *Dunn*, by Antiphraſis——becauſe he will never have *done* his bawlings; Or (as others write) takes the Appellation from a *quondam*-famous *Officer of Juſtice*, of that Name, with whoſe Nature he ſympathizes, and worries a poor Man with as little Remorſe, as that *Newgate Squire* could a Traitor. His *Faith* is enough to make one turn *Infidel*, for he uſes none ſo bad as thoſe he *truſts*; Nor can he be counted a Chriſtian, ſince his *Charity* both *begins* and *ends* at home, and if ever

ever he ſays his Prayers, he skips over that Petition, *Forgive us our Debts, as we forgive our Debtors*, in the *Pator Noſter*, as ſlily as a Fanatick does the Article of *Believing in the Catholick Church*, in the *Creed*. He is commonly *early up, and never the near*; for he wakes a Man in a Morning, before the Lark is up to Chaunt her Mattens, and a Guard of *Switzers* cannot keep him out of ones Chamber; aledging *Buſineſs*, or *Phyſick*, *Sleep* or *Sickneſs* cannot divert his Perſecutions: and 'tis happy for him, That *Doors* cannot maintain Actions of *Aſſault* and *Battery*. He beats up your Quarters ſo often, that they quickly learn to *deny you* at home; But if he chance to find you at any of your Haunts, he makes you believe 'twas by the meereſt *Accident*, though he have waited *eight and forty* hours on purpoſe. However, he is heartily *glad to ſee you*, (that's the only Truth you ſhall have of him) and ſhaking you by the hand he asks you——*What News?* But before you can Anſwer, out comes the *Little mony between us*. Then, Lord bleſs him! *Times are ſo hard, and Mony was never ſo ſcarce, ſince* Adam *wore Fig-leav'd Breeches!* His Creditors *are ſo urgent, they won't be put off, but he muſt forthwith make up a ſum, and therefore if you cannot help him to* all, *ſpare him but a* little, *for five pound now will do him as much good, as fifty another time, Nay, 'twill be as great a favour, as if you gave it him out of your Purſe*, &c. With this Rally of Rhetorick, the *Bluſhing* Debtor is *Nonpluſt*, and promiſes as many *Impoſſibilities*, as a *Quack-Doctor*, or a trembling *Cully*, under the Terrors of a *Bully-Rampant*; Only ſilently wiſhes, he had a handful of *Guinnies* to beat out

out his Brains with; for he is as afraid of him as a *saucy Prentice* of meeting a Gentleman at *White-hall* whom he hath affronted in the *City*; This makes him *shun* the place where he lives, as bad as a *Pest-house*; And (if we may credit an experienc'd Author) when he is to pass from *Algate* to *Covent-Garden*, and the low Ebb in his Pocket will not suffer him to go by water, He must first trot *down* to *Tower-hill*, thence strike *up* to *Northern-Falgate*, then *down* again to *Queen-hive*, thence *up* to *Charter house Yard*, from thence to *Salisbury Court*, and so to *Redlion Fields*, before he can reach *Drury-Lane* in *safety*; and yet for all this Caution, his head stands *awry* with continual looking about, and he is sometimes forc'd to walk the streets *peeping through a Prospective Glass*, to make a timely Discovery of the Enemies approach, which he prevents by *sneaking* into some *By-Alley* under pretence of *making Urine*. 116

Yet take them both together, they are two of the greatest *Hypocrites* in Nature; for though behind one anothers back they rail each at other, as bad as a Weaver against a French-man, yet when they meet, they are so *glad to see one another*! And *truely, I have ever found you very Civil to me*, says one; and *I don't in the least question your honesty* says the other; when the short of it is, 'tis forty to one, but one of them will prove a *Rank Knave*; The *Creditor* if ever he be paid, or the *Debtor* if he never pay.

But we must consider our *Dunn*, as a person of Judgment, that like a Dutch-man can sail with every wind, and *vary* his method, according to the persons he deals with, fawning, or threatning, Acting the

part

part of a *Sheep*, or a *Woolf*, as may moſt conduce to his advantage; and therefore if ever he can get a Gentleman upon his *Tenters*, he *ſtretches* him like Engliſh *Broad-cloath*, beyond the ſtaple of the Wool, till the Threds crack, which makes him with the leaſt wett, *Shrink*, and preſently ware *bare*; But as for a *Citizen* (at leaſt if himſelf be one) he handles him like a piece of *Spaniſh cloth*, gives him only a *Twitch*, and ſtrains him not too hard, as knowing how apt he is to *break* off himſelf, and then hee can cut nothing out of him but ſhreds; To the one he comes like *Tamberlain*, with his *black and bloody* Flag, But to the other his *White one* is diſplay'd; for a long time he only dares *ask how he does as he goes by*, and if he preſume to leave word with the eldeſt Prentice, that he would have him tell his Maſter that he was here to ſpeak with him about the *other Buſineſs* 'tis a bold Adventure; and at laſt (upon a parley) rather than fail, he takes ten groats ith' pound for his Ranſome, and ſo lets him march away with Bagg and Baggage.

To conclude, an *Importunate Dun* is generally a Rigid *Taſkmaſter*, that requires *Bricks* where there is neither *ſtraw* to burn them, nor *Clay* to make them, nor *Time* to perfect them; a fooliſh Muſitian that ſpoils his Inſtrument by *winding up* the ſtrings too high, or an *impatient Husbandman*, that having *ſown* his Corn chuſes to eat it up in the *Blade*, and ſo deſtroy his *Crop*, rather than wait for a *ſeaſonable Harveſt*.

He vexes only the *Modeſt*, and the *Honeſt*, for *bold Knaves* laugh at his Impertinence, and with a *Jeſt* cheat him in earneſt; however, he is *happy* that is free from *him*; and to be *ſo*, there needs only a *prudent Caution* in taking up of Credit, *A frugal Induſtry* in managing it, and a *juſt Principle* to diſcharge it.

FINIS.